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Enclosed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a petition for an extension of time, along with the appropriate fees.

Since the previously offered claim amendments were not entered in response to the Final Office Action dated November 2, 2006, Applicants submit new claims and new claim amendments in reference to the claim status at the time of the Final Office Action.

Claims 2, 5, 8, and 16 are currently amended, Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 17-22 are added. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 2 and 3-22 are pending. The specification is amended to correspond to the claim amendments. No new matter is introduced by the amendments.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,945,256 to *Kim et al.* (hereinafter *Kim '256*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,504,581 to *Hirosue et al.* (hereinafter *Hirosue*).

Independent claim 2 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 3 including "wherein N/M or M/N is a natural number". Further, independent claim 2 is amended to recite "determining a moving direction of the first and the second shots, the moving direction comprising one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction" and "determining the number of the light-exposed unit areas or the light-blocked unit areas in each row or in each column for the first and the second shots, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction" which is supported by the application as filed (Specification page 6 lines 1-6, and FIG. 5) and is neither taught nor suggested by *Kim '256* or *Hirosue*.

Similarly, independent claim 8 is also amended to recite "determining for each row or column a first number of light-exposed unit areas or a number of light-blocked unit areas,

wherein said first number decreases for each row or column in a direction from the first shot to the second shot, the direction from the first shot to the second shot comprising a moving direction that is one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction" which is supported by the application as filed (Specification page 6 lines 1-6, and FIG. 5) and is neither taught nor suggested by *Kim '256* or *Hirosue*.

Since not all of the claimed elements are taught in *Kim '256* and *Hirosue*, even if combined as suggested, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 2 and 8 distinguish over *Kim '256* and *Hirosue*, and that dependent claims 4, 9, and 13 are also distinguished at least based upon their dependency from either independent claim 2 or 8. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 2, 4, 8, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim '256* in view of *Hirosue* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,141 to *Takasugi et al.* (hereinafter *Takasugi*).

As discussed in reference to independent claim 8, *Kim '256* and *Hirosue* do not teach "determining for each row or column a first number of light-exposed unit areas or a number of light-blocked unit areas, wherein said first number decreases for each row or column in a direction from the first shot to the second shot, the direction from the first shot to the second shot comprising a moving direction that is one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction", and *Takasugi*

does not remedy this deficiency. Dependent claims 11-12 are distinguished over *Kim '256*, *Hirosue*, and *Takasugi* at least based on their dependence from claim 8, and claim 3 is cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 3, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim '256* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,854 to *Hazama et al.* (hereinafter *Hazama*).

Independent claim 5 is amended to recite "determining the positions or the sizes of the light-exposed unit areas or the light-blocked unit areas by a random number generator, the number of the light-exposed unit areas or the light-blocked unit areas gradually decreasing or increasing along a moving direction from the first shot to the second shot, the moving direction comprising one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction, each of the positions of the number of the light-blocked areas or the light-exposed areas in the second shot being opposite to those in the first shot, the randomly positioned light-blocked areas and the light-exposed areas having a distribution that is uniform" which is supported by the application as filed, and is neither taught nor suggested by *Kim '256* nor *Hazama*, even if combined as suggested.

Similarly, independent claim 8 recites "determining for each row or column a first number of light-exposed unit areas or a number of light-blocked unit areas, wherein said first number decreases for each row or column in a direction from the first shot to the second shot, the direction from the first shot to the second shot comprising a moving direction that is one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-

down direction" which is neither taught nor fairly suggested by *Kim '256* and *Hazama* in any combination, even if combined as suggested. Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and is patentably distinguished at least based on this dependency. Claims 14-15 depend from claim 8 and are patentably distinguished at least based on this dependency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 5, 6, 8, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim '256* in view of *Hazama* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,100,953 to *Kim et al.* (hereinafter *Kim '953*).

As described above, independent claim 5 recites "determining the positions or the sizes of the light-exposed unit areas or the light-blocked unit areas by a random number generator, the number of the light-exposed unit areas or the light-blocked unit areas gradually decreasing or increasing along a moving direction from the first shot to the second shot, the moving direction comprising one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, , the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction, each of the positions of the number of the light-blocked areas or the light-exposed areas in the second shot being opposite to those in the first shot, the randomly positioned light-blocked areas and the light-exposed areas having a distribution that is uniform" which is neither taught nor suggested by *Kim '256* or *Hazama*, and *Kim '953* does not remedy this deficiency. Since claim 7 depends from claim 5, it patentably distinguishes over *Kim '256*, *Hazama*, and *Kim '953* at least based on this dependence.

Further, as discussed in reference to claim 8 above, *Kim '256* and *Hazama* do not teach "determining for each row or column a first number of light-exposed unit areas or a number of

light-blocked unit areas, wherein said first number decreases for each row or column in a direction from the first shot to the second shot, the direction from the first shot to the second shot comprising a moving direction that is one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction" and *Kim '953* does not remedy this deficiency. Claim 16 is amended to depend from claim 15, which depends from claim 8, and patentably distinguishes over *Kim '256*, *Hazama*, and *Kim '953* at least based on this dependence. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim '256* in view of *Hirosue* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,483 to *Edelkind et al.* (hereinafter *Edelkind*).

As discussed in reference to claim 8, *Kim '256* and *Hirosue* alone or in combination do not teach "determining for each row or column a first number of light-exposed unit areas or a number of light-blocked unit areas, wherein said first number decreases for each row or column in a direction from the first shot to the second shot, the direction from the first shot to the second shot comprising a moving direction that is one of a left-right direction and an up-down direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each column when the moving direction is the left-right direction, the number of the light-blocked areas being determined in each row when the moving direction is the up-down direction", and *Edelkind* does not remedy this deficiency. Claim 10 depends from claim 8 and patentably distinguishes over *Kim '256*, *Hirosue*, and *Edelkind* at least based on this dependence. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

New claims 17-20 are supported by the application as filed (page 6 lines 1-26, and FIG. 5) and are believed allowable at least based on their dependence from one of claims 2, 5, or 8, respectively.

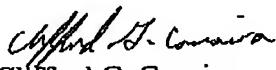
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections and timely issuance of a notice of allowance. If there are any questions, a telephone call to the undersigned is both welcomed and encouraged at telephone number (949)-752-7040.

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Respectfully submitted,


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